

Message Text

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R 160810Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6692

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT RO

SUBJECT: GOR SECURITY FORCES STILL OUT OF STEP?-- SOUR NOTES
ALONG WITH PRAISE

1. SUMMARY: PROMINENTLY PUBLICIZED OCTOBER 12 CELEBRATION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF ROMANIAN SECURITY ORGANS FEATURED AWARDS TO NINE TOP SECURITY OFFICIALS AND 483 LESSER FRY PLUS CEAUSESCU SPEECH GIVING GENERALLY UPBEAT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR ROLE. HOWEVER, CEAUSESCU'S REMARKS ALSO LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT, DESPITE ORGANIZATIONAL SHAKEUPS OF PAST TWO YEARS, PROBLEMS WITHIN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MI) REMAIN, INCLUDING PERHAPS SENTIMENT UNFAVORABLE TOWARD CEAUSESCU'S POLICIES, ANTHOUGH NOTHING IN CEAUSESCU'S MANNER SUGGESTED LACK OF CONFIDENCE THAT MI NOW WELL IN HAND. END SUMMARY.

2. SUMMARIZING 25-YEAR RECORD OF SECURITY SERVICES, CEAUSESCU HARPED ON THEME OF PARTY CONTROL: "SECURITY ORGANS HAVE OBLIGATION TO CARRY OUT PARTY AND STATE DIRECTIVES; CONTROL BY "WORKING CLASS" AND "PEOPLE" SHOULD BE "PERMANENT" AND "EFFECTIVE". SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, HE CITED RECENT CHILEAN EVENTS AS EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENS IF "STATE ORGANS REMAIN OUTSIDE THE CONCERN TO REALIZE REVOLUTIONARY TRANSFORMATIONS AND CONSIDER THEMSELVES SOMETHING ABOVE THE PEOPLE." AT SPEECH'S END (TV TNEWS CLIPS SHOWED), CEAUSESCU PAUSED FOR
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EMPHASIS AND, USING CHOPPY HAND GESTURES AND STERN GAZE FOR

EFFECT, SAID: " I REPEAT, I CONSIDER THE SECURITY ORGANS AS AN APPARATUS OF THE PARTY AND SECURITY WORKERS AS PARTY ACTIVISTS" WHO ARE BOUND TO CARRY OUT PARTY INTERNAL AND FOREIGN POLICY (INCLUDING FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL, NOT JUST "SOCIALIST" STATES) "UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES."

3. DRAWING BALANCE SHEET, AND "ANALYSING PLUSES AND MINUSES," CEAUSESCU LEFTHANDEDLY COMPLIMENTED SECURITY RECORD AS "POSITIVE," BUT ONLY AFTER FACTORING IN "REMARKABLE SUCCESSES," IN "GENERAL BALANCE SHEET" OF "SOCIETY AS A WHOLE." CEAUSESCU REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO "MISTAKES AND ABUSES ALIEN TO PARTY POLICY WHICH SECURITY ORGANS HAD ALLOWED OVER THE YEARS. HE EXCUSED THESE MISTAKES BY VIRTUE OF GREAT "ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES" WHICH HAD TO BE OVERCOME AND ABSOLVED HIMSELF BY RECALLING HIS OWN CRITICISM OF "MISTAKES AND DEFICIENCIES" AS EARLY AS 1954, AND AGAIN IN 1955, 1956, 1959 AND 1968. BEGINNING WITH THE LATTER DATE (COMMENT: 1968 MARKED DOWNFALL OF SECRET POLICE HEAD ALEXANDRU DRAGHICI, WHO AT TIME WAS THREAT TO CEAUSESCU'S LEADERSHIP), SECURITY FORCES GENERALLY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TASKS ASSIGNED "IN GOOD ORDER," HE ADDED LUKEWARMLY.

4. CEAUSESCU STRESSED THAT SECURITY FORCES MUST ADAPT TO NEW CONDITIONS WHICH DIFFER FROM THOSE OF REGIME'S EARLY YEARS. THEY MUST BECOME "CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE," AND MUST TAKE CARE THAT "NO CITIZEN SUFFERS UNJUSTLY" AND THAT THERE IS NO "GIVING IN TO EXIGENCIES." (INTERJECTED CEAUSESCU, "I WANT THIS TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, COMRADES.") DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE, HE EMPHASIZED, BETWEEN "ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE" WHO ARE "HOSTILE TO OUR ORDER," ON ONE HAND, AND OTHER PERSONS WHO MAY "ERR AT GIVEN MOMENT" OR EXPRESS "DISCONTENT" FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, ON OTHER HAND. LATTER PEOPLE, HE SAID, OUGHT TO BE MERELY "EDUCATED" OR "MOBILIZED." MISSION OF SECURITY FORCES, HE SAID, INCLUDES DEFENDING ROMANIA FROM STILL-EXISTING INTERNATIONAL "REACTIONARY FORCES HOSTILE TO SOCIALISM," BUT ALSO FROM "ANY ATTEMPT FROM ABROAD (READ USSR) TO HARM OUR ORDER AND THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE, IN WHATEVER FORM." ELSEWHERE, HE ADDED, MISSION IS INTER ALIA TO "DEFEND THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF FATHERLAND AGAINST ANYONE BOLD ENOUGH TO IMPINGE UPON . . .
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PEOPLE'S ACHIEVEMENTS."

5. EMIL BOBU, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, ADDED PRAISE FOR CEAUSESCU PERSONALLY FOR HIS "IMMENSE HELP" TO SECURITY SERVICES AND PLEDGED THEIR ADHERENCE TO SOCIALIST LEGALITY AND PARTY CONTROL. FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER NICOLAE DOICARU, CAREER SECURITATE PROFESSIONAL (BELIEVED TO BE GOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOSS) AND SENIOR RECIPIENT OF ANNIVERSARY MEDAL,

SAID CONTRITELY THAT SECURITY CADRES "COULD LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES, FROM THOSE WHO ARE OLDER, FROM OUR PAST MISTAKES OR THOSE MORE RECENT."

6. COMMENT: WIDELY PUBLICIZED EVENT IS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL THOUGH NOT UNPRECEDENTED. CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH REMARKABLY FREE OF REFERENCES TO EXTERNAL "IMPERIALIST" THREATS AND CENTERED ON INTERNAL NEED TO BRING SECURITY FORCES "CLOSER TO PEOPLE," A THEME EVIDENT FOR SOME TIME. THAT CEAUSESCU FELT NEED TO LECTURE ASSEMBLED SECURITY FUNCTIONARIES AGAINST FOOTDRAGGING AS REGARDS PARTY POLICY IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING AFTER ORGANIZATIONAL TURMOIL IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MI) DURING LAST TWO YEARS. HOWEVER, CEAUSESCU'S MANNER SUGGESTED NO LACK OF CONFIDENCE THAT HE NOW HAS MI WELL IN HAND. INSTALLATION (JUNE 1973) OF ARMY GENERAL COMAN AT LEVEL OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECTION CHIEF SUPERVISING MILITARY-SECURITY MATTERS (REPORTING DIRECTLY TO CEAUSESCU WITHOUT PARTY SECRETARY INTERMEDIARY) AND DECREE (JUNE 1973) FOR FIRST TIME SUBORDINATING MI TO CEAUSESCU-HEADED DEFENSE COUNCIL AS WELL AS TO COUNCIL OF

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6693

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3756

MINISTERS AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PLUS CONSPICUOUS PRESENCE OF DEFMIN IONITA AT MI FESTIVITIES OCT. 12, ARE CONSISTENT WITH PICTURE OF CEAUSESCU CONSOLIDATING BETTER PERSONAL

GRIP ON APPARENTLY RECALCITRANT SECTION OF GOR BUREAUCRACY AND RELYING MORE ON ARMY AT EXPENSE OF ALLEGEDLY "STALINIST"

SECRET POLICE OFFICIALDOM (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, A-087 OF APRIL 12, 1973 AND A-233, AUGUST 30, 1973). AT SAME TIME, CEREMONY AND ACCOMPANYING AWARDS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO PLACATE SECURITY APPARATUS AS WELL AS TO KEEP IT IN LINE. DOICARU'S CURIOUS REFERENCE TO "RECENT MISTAKES" IS ALSO PART OF BACKGROUND; ONE IS REMINDED OF BUNGLED KIDNAPPING IN FRG, PETRASCU CASE, PROBABLY CONTROVERSIES OVER HANDLING OF GENERAL SERB AFFAIR, REPORTED SUICIDE OF CEAUSESCU'S DOCTOR AND, POSSIBLY, AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CEAUSESCU LAST YEAR ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE HEARD RECURRENT VAGUE RUMORS ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH REAL EVIDENCE.
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